

Issues of the Dance Cultural Heritage – Identification and Living Practice

Anna Shtarbanova

(Summary)

In a polemic tone the author discusses issues related to achieving a broad consensus with regards to intangible cultural heritage – a subject of protection in the sphere of dance folklore, as follows:

- Why not everything falling into the ambiguously defined sphere of *folklore/folk* dance could be defined as intangible cultural heritage
- The diverse understandings of the essence of the dance folklore from the part of the various types of performers (amateur, professional or just practicing), with regard to the public opinion (at one hand) and with regard to researchers-experts (on the other hand), and even in the opinions of different experts
- The difference between the identification of the dance heritage and the living practice of which is now danced under the label of “folklore”
- The difference between folklore for watching and folklore for dancing
- The extent to which the performers now have a real choice what to be their dance culture

The author makes the statement that the protection of the cultural heritage could happen just and only as a long term project of the state, with clear educational strategy at all levels, and not only in administrative-personnel perspective. It is necessary to combine forces and explain to the public what is and what is not intangible cultural heritage. The problem is resolved at expert level, but this solution is still not widespread. This task could not be accomplished only by scientists, but with the help of a stable state cultural policy, with clear and unified position for the public.

Anna Shtarbanova
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies
with Ethnographic Museum – BAS
Acad. Georgi Bonchev Str., bl. 6
1113 Sofia, BULGARIA
annashtarbanova@yahoo.com